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Borough of Kendal

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

FOR THE YEAR

1957

KENDAL

TITUS WILSON & SON, LTD.

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To the Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors of the Borough of Kendal.

SIR, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to submit to you my Annual Report upon the health of the Borough during the year 1957.

This year's report contains one of our periodical reviews of housing, slum clearance and redevelopment within the Borough.

It also draws special attention to our current problems of refuse tip sites and staff shortage.

I wish to acknowledge the help and ready co-operation of my colleague the County Medical Officer of Health, and also the assistance afforded to me by the local general medical practitioners.

I am indebted also to the Chief Public Health Inspector and his staff for the spirit of teamwork which exists in my department, and for the fund of local knowledge which they have laid at my disposal.

I have the honour to be,

Sir, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

FRANK T. MADGE,

Medical Officer of Health.

NATURAL AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE DISTRICT.

Area of the Borough in acres	...	...	...	...	3,705
Population (Registrar-General's mid-year estimate)...					18,510
Inhabited Houses	...	...	...	...	6,225
Rateable Value	...	...	...	...	£228,311
Product of a Penny Rate	...	...	...	...	£920
Rate in the Pound levied	...	...	...	...	18/6d.
of which the County Rate was	...	...	...	...	14/5d.

Kendal is picturesquely situated in the valley of the River Kent, the greater part being on the west bank built on ground rising steeply in a series of terraced streets up Kendal Fell to about 500 feet above sea level. The buildings on the east bank are situated on undulating lowlands rising from 137 feet to 200 feet contour. The dale of Kendal runs north to south with the level of the eastern boundary varying between 500 and 600 feet and the western boundary between 300 and 600 feet above sea level.

The geology of the Borough is sharply divided by the Fellside. The steep eminence of Kendal Fell on the west is composed of carboniferous limestone which represent remains of the dome which once covered the Lake District, and the sharp division is caused by a fault in this system. To the east of this fault denudation has taken place and the out-cropping rocks are Kirkby Moor Flags of the Upper Ludlow Series of the Silurian System. Alluvial deposits and some Basement Conglomerates form the small northern area of the Borough.

The climate is mild and invigorating, the town is sheltered by the Fell from the prevailing westerly winds, and the open aspect to the south provides full access to sunlight. Temperature gradient inversions are frequent at night but are soon dispelled in the mornings. The rainfall normally varies between 50 and 55 inches a year and light falls of snow may be expected for one or two weeks in the late winter. The low-lying land in the north of the Borough is liable to flooding when the River Kent is in spate, but the town remains comfortably dry and free from mist or fog.

Economically Kendal serves a treble function. Primarily it is a market town, being situated in the heart of the southern portion of Westmorland and the centre of a large agricultural community within a radius of some eight miles. Secondly it is an important stopping place on the main A.6 road, where the heavy volume of motor traffic from the South divides into the portion destined for Scotland over Shap, and the portion heading for the Lake District. The former includes a high proportion of heavy lorry traffic which uses Kendal as a regular overnight staging point, and the latter includes a very seasonal peak-load of tourist traffic. Thirdly Kendal has become an important centre

for light industries which have guaranteed constant employment to the inhabitants and brought considerable prosperity to the town.

The local industries include a wide variety of manufacturing processes, the chief of which are:—

- Boot and Shoe Manufactory.

Woollen Mills.

Engineering Works.

Hosiery and Shirt Manufactories.

Tobacco and Snuff Manufactories.

Breweries.

Carpet Manufactory.

Stone and Lime Works.

In addition there are ample opportunities for employment in the shops, cafés, hotels, business premises, and laundries. At Oxenholme the inhabitants are mainly interested in the railway employment. The variety of these opportunities for both men and women has kept Kendal happily free from general unemployment and provided that economic security and prosperity which is a most important factor in the maintenance of the public health.

STAFF.

Name.	Qualifications.	Office.	Whole or Part Time.	Other Offices
Madge, F. T. ..	M.D., Ch.B., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.	Medical Officer of Health	Part	M.O.H. Combined County Districts of Westmorland
Rigg, W. B. G. ...	F.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I., Cert. S.I.B.	Chief Public Health Inspector	Whole	—
Major, J. H. ..	M.A.P.H.I., Cert. S.I.B.	Additional Public Health Inspector	Whole	—
Mandle, W. F. ...	A.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I., Cert. S.I.B.	Additional Public Health Inspector to 30.6.57	Whole	—
Holt, E. E. ..	A.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.	Additional Public Health Inspector from 12.8.57	Whole	—
Gibson, C. ..	—	Clerk	Whole	—
Machell, B. M. ...	—	Clerk to Medical Officer of Health	Part	Clerk to M.O.H. Combined County Districts of Westmorland

Staff Changes.

Mr. Mandle resigned on 30th June and was replaced by Mr. Holt on 12th August as an Additional Public Health Inspector.

COMMITTEES.

The Minister of Health requires me to include a list of your Council's committees which are concerned with matters of public health.

The Health Committee deal with the principal matters, but there are other aspects of public health importance which are dealt with by the Water, Property, and Streets and Sewerage Committees.

VITAL STATISTICS.

The following extracts are made from information supplied by the Registrar-General, with figures for 1956 for comparison.

Area of the District in acres 3,705

					1956	1957
Estimated civilian population (mid year) ..					18,510	18,510
Live Births.	Legitimate—	males ..	..		117	132
		females ..	..		118	123
	Illegitimate—	males ..	..		5	5
		females ..	..		7	4
	Total				247	264
	Crude Rate per 1,000 population				13.3	14.2
	Corrected Rate per 1,000 population				13.3	14.2
	Rate for England and Wales ..				15.7	16.1
Still Births.	Legitimate—	males ..	..		4	1
		females ..	..		3	—
	Illegitimate—	males ..	..		—	1
		females ..	..		—	—
	Total				7	2
	Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births				27.5	7.5
	Rate for England and Wales ..				23.0	22.4

	1956	1957
Deaths. males	119	122
females	126	136
Total	245	258
Crude Rate per 1,000 population ..	13.2	13.9
Corrected Rate per 1,000 population	12.9	13.4
Rate for England and Wales ..	11.7	11.5
Infantile Deaths (under 1 year):		
Legitimate	4	8
Rate per 1,000 legitimate live births	17.02	31.3
Illegitimate	1	—
Rate per 1,000 illegitimate live births	83.3	—
Total deaths under 1 year	5	8
Rate per 1,000 live births	20.2	30.3
Rate for England and Wales ..	23.8	23.0
Neo-natal Deaths (under 1 month):		
Total neo-natal deaths	3	5
Rate per 1,000 live births	12.1	18.9
Rate for England and Wales	16.9	16.5
Maternal Mortality:		
Total Deaths	—	—
Rate per 1,000 total (live and still)		
births	—	—
Rate for England and Wales ..	0.56	0.47

Deaths from certain causes:—

	1956	1957
Cancer	39	46
Measles	Nil	Nil
Whooping Cough	Nil	Nil

The main causes of Death were:—

Heart Disease	76
Vascular lesions of nervous system	53
Cancer	46

COMMENTARY ON THE VITAL STATISTICS.

Population.

Your population at the 1951 Census was 18,541 made up of 8,521 males and 10,020 females. This was an increase of 2,225, or 13.6% over the previous census in 1931. Only some 2.6% of that increase was due to the excess of births over deaths and the net balance of 11% was due to people from outside coming to live in Kendal. The town has shown this steady growth for many decades, and its rate has been kept in check mainly by the current shortage of houses from time to time.

The 1951 Census showed that the day population of the Borough was 19,074 and that there was a daily tidal flow of 2,322 persons. Kendal was a day workplace for 1,518 people who came in from their homes in the surrounding area, 971 men and 547 women. In return for the incoming 'bus loads, Kendal sent out each day 804 people to work outside the Borough boundary, 599 men and 205 women. This daily interchange of talent must hide many a human story, many a difficult housing problem, and many reflections of the changing face of England, even in this small corner of the land.

Birth Rate.

The birth rate was still appreciably below the national level. There were six more births than deaths in 1957 and 17 more than in the previous year.

Death Rate.

The death rate was slightly above the average for the rest of England and Wales, and the general downward trend of the past 100 years is being maintained. The proportion of old persons in your community is likely to increase markedly during the next decade.

Infant Deaths.

The infantile death rate of 30.3 per thousand live births was above the national average.

In spite of the setback of recent years your long term trend has been downwards and there are signs that we are approaching the hard core of "unavoidable" infant deaths. It does not appear likely that science will be able to prevent developmental abnormalities, but there are high hopes that blood tests and the increased availability of obstetrical specialists will help to reduce the number of neo-natal

deaths. The general trend reflects an improvement in child care by the local doctors, nurses and, above all, by the young mothers in their homes.

An advisory obstetric committee has been set up in Westmorland to co-ordinate the functions of the three divisions of the health services involved in midwifery, and to investigate the cause of still births and infant deaths.

Maternal Mortality.

There were happily none during the year.

PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OF INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

Public Health Act, 1936. Sections 143-170.

National Health Service Act, 1946. Part III.

The general incidence of illness can be assessed by the weekly number of new claims for sickness benefit at our local National Insurance offices. A logarithmic graph of those figures shows a regular seasonal pattern over the years, and any variations are usually worth investigating. The general level is some measure of the local community health.

Measles was the main feature of 1957. It will be remembered that the epidemic in Kendal started in the previous November and that some 500 cases had already occurred by the turn of the year. January 1957 continued with further waves of measles, and after that the outbreak gradually tailed off into the spring. By the end there had been over 700 cases in the Borough, mostly in the age groups under 8 years old, with the heaviest incidence in the early school years. Although there were often complications in infants, there were no deaths.

Whooping Cough claimed 63 cases in 1957, mostly at the same time as the measles epidemic. That was rather a pity because whooping cough is preventable.

Asian influenza provided a hectic interlude during the autumn. As it is not a notifiable disease we do not know exactly how many cases there were, but we were able to measure its impact on Kendal by the National Insurance claims, and by the daily absentee figures so kindly supplied to us by the big local firms. The epidemic caused much dislocation in schools and business houses for a couple of weeks, and then life returned to a more normal pattern. Its most serious effect was upon the elderly and frail, who were prone to succumb to complications such as pneumonia.

NOTIFIED DISEASES TABLE.

	Total	Ages											Admitted to Hospital	Deaths
		-1	1-	2-	3-	4-	5-	10-	15-	20-	35-	45-			65-
Measles	195	4	26	23	26	33	77	5	1	-	-	-	-	-
Whooping Cough ..	65	5	6	4	3	10	33	1	1	1	1	-	-	-
Scarlet Fever	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Erysipelas	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	-	-	1
TOTAL	264	9	32	28	29	43	110	6	2	1	1	3	-	2

It is pleasing to record that the notification of infectious diseases has been much improved in recent years, and I am very grateful to my colleagues in general practice for their prompt help in this respect. I look upon the control of notifiable diseases as one of the most important duties of our department. Patterns of thought change from time to time on these subjects, but the notifications provide the factual basis for controlling the spread of infections.

TUBERCULOSIS.

Tuberculosis is the most important communicable disease of our time. Its prevention is primarily dependent upon social and economic factors in the general community, and secondarily upon the management of the established case. Your Council's functions are three-fold; to investigate the source of infection, to prevent the spread of infection, and to remove conditions favourable to infection.

TUBERCULOSIS TABLE.

Age Periods	NEW CASES				DEATHS			
	Respira- tory		Non-res- piratory		Respira- tory		Non-res- piratory	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0 ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1 ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5 ..	1	2	—	—	—	—	—	—
15 ..	1	2	—	—	—	—	—	—
25 ..	1	4	—	—	—	—	—	—
35 ..	1	2	—	—	2	—	—	—
45 ..	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
55 ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
65 ..	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total ..	7	10	—	—	2	—	—	—

The number of tuberculosis patients on the register at the year end were: —

Respiratory	...	120
Non-Respiratory	...	11
		—
		131
		—

Hospital and Ambulance Arrangements for Infectious Diseases.

National Health Service Act, 1946. Parts II and III.

Hospital accommodation for infectious diseases is provided by the Regional Hospital Board, Manchester, at Beaumont Hospital, Lancaster, a modern and well-equipped building within easy reach of the area under modern transport conditions.

Smallpox cases will be admitted to the Ainsworth Smallpox Hospital, near Bury.

Ambulance transport for cases of infectious disease is provided by the Westmorland County Council and is based in Kendal.

Disinfection Arrangements.

Disinfection in connection with infectious diseases or for other public health reasons was carried out in 46 houses during the year. There is a steam disinfector at Parkside Road which is available to other local authorities and private bodies.

HOUSING.

Under the Housing Acts your Council has a duty to consider the general housing conditions in your district, to ascertain whether any are unfit for human habitation, and to assess the need for further houses. You have powers to deal with unfit houses, powers to provide new houses for all classes, and various powers and duties in the management of your Council's housing estates. Good housing conditions are an integral part of public health.

Present Housing Position.

The number of inhabited houses in your Borough is 6,225. With an estimated population of 18,510, the average number of persons per house is 2.9. This is not a high figure for a desirably sized family, but many of the houses have only one or two occupants. At the time of the 1951 Census there were 599 houses where only one person lived,

10% of all your houses, and another 1,645 houses occupied by only two people. About one-third of the houses in your Borough are probably not used to their best advantage.

In the remainder it is not uncommon to find more than one family unit in each house, and although this leads to domestic and personal difficulties it usually does not constitute overcrowding within the strict definition of the Housing Act, which assumes that sexes can be segregated irrespective of age, health and family relationships.

The neighbouring areas of South Westmorland and Windermere are considerably used as dormitories for Kendal, and this overspill factor complicates the complete picture of housing in the Borough. The figure for daily movements at the time of the 1951 Census are set out in the vital statistics commentary of this report.

Over half the houses are of relatively recent construction, built since the end of the 1914-18 war. About one-third of the total houses in the Borough are municipally owned and provided with modern amenities. It can also be assumed that the others built by private enterprise in this period are similarly of good quality.

About another 40% of the houses were built before 1920, but appear to be structurally sound, and most of them have modern amenities. A few are poorly arranged on account of their proximity to bad property.

The rest of the houses include a lot of very old property in poor structural condition and badly arranged. In addition to their disrepair and sunless congested position in ill-paved yards, they lack the essential amenities of separate sanitary accommodation, hot-water systems, baths, cooking facilities, food stores and separate gardens or yards. Most of them will soon be swept away.

General Progress of Slum Clearance and Improvements.

Westmorland as a whole has made very encouraging progress in post-war slum clearance despite all the difficulties of the times. Since the campaign was resumed in 1948 well over 700 houses in the County have been dealt with by formal action under the Housing Acts. Most of these will eventually be demolished or converted to trade use, but about 15% of them have been reprieved by their owners undertaking to spend considerable money for comprehensive reconditioning up to modern standards. In addition to those formal actions there have been a very creditable number of informal schemes for the renovation of sub-standard houses, either with the aid of improvement grants or entirely by private enterprise. The aim is to save a house wherever

possible, but if it cannot be brought up to an acceptable standard of safety, decency and amenity the sooner it is swept away the better.

Decay is proceeding very rapidly in the central areas of Kendal. We seem to have reached a stage where most of the poorer 18th century buildings, and many of the early 19th, are in jeopardy. Their mortar has perished, the soft stones are crumbling and the woodwork has rotted. The approaching end of the natural life of the materials has been accelerated by years of neglect in maintenance. In the dangerous building section of this report I refer more fully to more than a hundred dilapidated structures of such age within half a mile of the Town Hall. That is some measure of the problem we have to face.

The answer lies in how deeply people are prepared to put their hands into their pockets to pay for restoration. It would be a costly job to preserve the appearance of Kendal's ancient buildings even as they stand today. Mere lip-service to preservation spells nothing more than decay: restoration implies vigorous activity with a standard of honest craftsmanship to match the original builders. There seems hope that it will be done around Abbot Hall, but I see few signs of other preservation movements backing their nostalgia with hard cash. Most of them are sleeping in whilst time is running fast against them.

The problem goes even deeper. It depends on whether the people of Kendal wish to look forward or backward: to tolerate continued decay as a means of clinging to sentimental memories for what is left of the shortness of life, or to do something more vigorous to shape the new Kendal for those who follow after. A quarter of a century of wars, the threat of wars, the burden of taxation, interest rates, restrictions and rent controls, the shadow of nuclear bombs, all have militated against healthy redevelopment. Faith in the future, faith in Kendal's prosperity are sitting waiting pathetically for the redevelopment of the central areas of the Borough. It is my earnest hope that our slum clearance schemes will be followed up by a revitalised inspiration for building the new Kendal.

We are getting on quite nicely with your Council's ten years programme for slum clearance, which was approved by the Minister of Housing and Local Government in 1955, but there is the customary long time lag between completing the formal condemnation procedure and the actual clearance of the site. That lag makes it imperative to keep pressing on with the programme. We take individual unfit houses in our stride, but the clearance areas take so much preparation that perforce we have to move by irregular stages. The important point is that we get results.

The above paragraphs provide a periodical review of our progress over the past few years, while the following sections record the working in this field during 1957.

Closing Orders.

Housing Act, 1957. Section 18.

Seven closing orders were made during the year. The total number of houses subject to closing orders is 82, but only nine are still occupied. Another nine went out of use for habitation during the year. Many such houses are usefully converted for other purposes, but we have to watch that vacant ones do not become derelict.

Undertakings not to use for Human Habitation.

Housing Act, 1956. Section 16.

One undertaking was accepted during the year. The total number of such undertakings is 125, of which only 16 relate to houses still occupied. Four more were vacated during the year.

Many of these houses are also converted for some other purpose, and, as in the case of closing orders, there is no bar to owner's putting forward reconditioning proposals if they wish. Once more there is a danger that vacant cottages become dilapidated and cause nuisances of various kinds. I should prefer to see them used for some purpose acceptable to the planning authorities.

Undertakings to execute remedial works.

Housing Act, 1957. Sections 16 and 18.

No offers were made for reconditioning of unfit houses under these sections of the Act. No such undertakings remain unsatisfied.

Demolition Orders.

Housing Act, 1957. Section 16.

Two demolition orders were made during the year.

The total number of outstanding demolition orders is 43 of which 16 relate to houses which are still occupied.

One house subject to demolition order was demolished during the year.

Four such houses went out of use for habitation during the year.

There are some outstanding demolition orders which were made before the 1939-45 war, because the houses are still occupied by the original tenants. Some of the cottages are now in a deplorable state, and I recommend that an effort should be made to rehouse the occupiers. Some are holding up more extensive clearance and redevelopment, as may be seen in the Corporation owned property in Kirkland

by Nether Bridge, or in Yard 126 Highgate where a whole row of derelict empty cottages are waiting for one last family to move out before the demolitions can commence.

Clearance Areas.

Housing Act, 1957. Section 42.

Your Council have made good progress since the 1939-45 war with clearance areas in the more central parts of the town. Some have been completed, some are in the throes of physical clearance, and some are going through the paper forests of statutory procedure. Still more are in the stage of preparation, and the rest are lined up ready for the years ahead. Our experience is that it takes a couple of years to pass from the Official Representation to the stage of Ministerial approval, and then another couple to take conveyances of the properties, and then five to seven years to rehouse all the families involved, and then another few years to knock the houses down, and then goodness knows how long before anyone will develop the blitzed sites. Consequently our department have to try to keep our minds tuned to fifteen years ahead. Up to now we have managed to do it, and there is no sign of anyone breathing down our necks. It would be so pleasant to see things speeded up all round. Looking over our shoulders, this is what we see just now.

White Lion Yard was our first post-war effort to pick up the threads of where our predecessors had to leave off their magnificent programme in 1939. I re-represented nine houses and six trade premises in the area in 1948 but it was not until 1955 that it was finally cleared. There has been no redevelopment of the site, and it is now becoming, like so many vacant plots in Kendal, a dump for anything that people are too feckless to take elsewhere. As it is Corporation owned, we make periodical attempts to scavenge the site, but until it is redeveloped it will remain inviting. Much of the adjoining commercial property is in a deplorable state and some is frankly dangerous. It might have been better to face the compensation payments and have treated the area more ruthlessly, but times were difficult in 1948. I think that commercial enterprise may offer the best hope of redeveloping the block that embraces White Lion Yard.

The Far Cross Bank Clearance areas fared much better, 27 houses in them were represented in 1949, compulsorily purchased, and all except one decrepit corner was physically cleared during 1956. A very pleasant open redevelopment followed at the entrance to the cricket ground, and the site has considerably enhanced the look of the northern approach to the town.

Captain French Lane was the next area to be tackled. 27 houses in that narrow street and the adjoining yard were officially represented in 1951, and subsequently confirmed by the Minister for compulsory purchase. By the end of 1957 most of the occupiers had been rehoused, and the Council were turning their minds towards making a start with demolition. No definite plans have been announced for the redevelopment of these sites and I hope that they will not remain too long in a derelict state.

Abbot Hall Square was dealt with in the meantime because it was already owned by Kendal Corporation. Without the necessity for formal action, the 12 houses there were pulled down during 1951, and a good job was made by redeveloping the site as part of the adjoining park.

Fellside was the next target, after a period of reconnoitering and regrouping. Five areas there were represented during 1955. One was a small section of decayed property between Jordan's granary and Sepulchre Lane, and was dealt with by Clearance Order. At the end of 1957 a couple of the houses had been dropped because they became dangerous, and the rest were still occupied. The place looks like a bomb incident, and the sooner it is cleared up properly the better for all concerned. The other four clearance areas on Fellside were taken by compulsory purchase orders because they surrounded a pre-war cleared zone mainly owned by Kendal Corporation. The whole five areas contained 54 houses, only 39 of which were occupied, mostly in a jumble of dilapidated and decayed property in Rosemary Lane, Rosemary Hill, Middle Lane, Sepulchre Lane and Syke Lane. By the end of 1957 fairly good progress was being made with rehousing the families, and some of the houses were partly demolished. For a few years Fellside will probably continue to look like a civil defence exercise ground, but after that there will be an extensive area open for some sort of more pleasant redevelopment. I have long advocated its use for multi-storey flats which could be blended into the hillside without upsetting Kendal's almost unblemished skyline. Another alternative could be for terraces of old people's houses, set along the easier gradients of the approaches from Allhallows Lane. All the services are on the site, the outlook is pleasantly elevated, and it has the advantage of being near the centre of the town. But if Fellside cannot be laid out afresh with houses, then I hope it will be made into a decently organised public open space or park. It would be a pity to allow such a lovely natural site to deteriorate into another wasteland rubbish dump.

Peppercorn Lane was dealt with during 1956 and 1957. There were

only five houses, but they formed a little pocket of decayed property which stood directly in the way of the proposed redevelopment of the Abbot Hall precincts. The Council took them by a compulsory purchase order which was confirmed during 1957 by the Minister of Housing and Local Government. No start has yet been made on the physical clearance.

1957 saw two small clearance areas in Highgate officially represented. One was a minor block of five cottages at the end of Gulf Road near the mill. The other was an attempt to cure the stalemate in a couple of yards in Highgate. Yard 124A is a horrible little relic of a bygone age, and the adjoining Yard 126 is the one that contains a whole row of derelict empty cottages waiting for the tenants of the last one to be rehoused before they are pulled down under some pre-war demolition orders. I should have liked to see both yards taken by compulsory purchase order, so that the two awkward little strips of land could be run together to make a site more worthy of some decent redevelopment, and to give a better chance for opening up the existing dilapidated frontage on to Highgate. I asked your Council to consider its scope for redevelopment with old peoples' bungalows or flats, for it is an easy pleasant site. Your Council however decided not to seek purchase, but to achieve the clearance by way of making clearance orders, so that in time the bare sites will be left with the private owners for them to redevelop if they can. At the year end both schemes were being prepared in the Town Clerk's Department for submission to the Minister. Only five occupied houses are now involved in its attenuated form.

I had hoped to bring before your Council during 1957 our proposals for the major slum clearance scheme between Highgate and the river, from the mill southwards to Abbot Hall park. The magnitude and complexity of the task, coupled with staff shortages, hindered its presentation, but I hope to bring it forward at least in outline during 1958.

This area will follow on where our predecessors left off pre-war. A lot of Corporation owned vacant land is already lying there, sterilised by awkwardly shaped plots, lack of proper modern access, and bedevilled with indecision about its fate. There is a lot of dilapidated, derelict, dangerous and jumbled up property down there, some owned by the Corporation, but most of it again in tiny narrow plots that defy any sensible redevelopment. The only hope seems to lie in reducing this multiple ownership to a smaller number of capable operators.

The town map for approved redevelopment shows a relief road to

be constructed right across the area, and the reallocation of the land bordering it for rebuilding and open spaces. Our slum clearance scheme should help to speed things on, but it will not be likely to interfere directly with the shops and business premises fronting the east side of Highgate. It may affect the depth they run back towards the river, for it is possible that a service road might be needed at their rear to ease the traffic jams on Highgate caused by loading and unloading goods.

One good thing the presentation of this major slum clearance scheme may do is to bring to a head the indecision and worries of existing property owners in that area, and the people who wish to redevelop for themselves. They know that some day there may be a big clearance, that some day there may be new roads through the zone, but all initiative is stifled at present by the uncertainties of time and place. I think it is high time that they should know where they stand, so that we may enlist their help to create the new heart of Kendal on one of the loveliest reaches of its river.

Whether our scheme will ever be acceptable I know not. It is bound to be modified during its passage by those who have other interests or greater wisdom, but I can see not only the ultimate long-term benefit of permanent redevelopment, but perhaps a very useful interim function for the area to serve as a temporary car park for ten years or so, to alleviate the manifest congestion in Kendal's streets. That scheme will take a long time to mature, so the sooner we start it the better.

It would be premature to spend much time discussing the schemes that will come afterwards, but I anticipate that in the early nineteen sixties we shall do something about the poor properties on the north side of the House of Correction Hill section of Windermere Road. I have started the ball rolling to that end.

Of course many of these slum clearance schemes are highly controversial, but they are none the worse for that. I would rather see people leap up and propound something better (which would not be difficult) than see them slumbering apathetically with the town crumbling about their ears. I firmly believe that Kendal has a vital spark to fan.

Estimated Requirement for New Houses.

The Housing Act, 1949, enlarged the responsibilities of your Council for the provision of new houses to accommodate all classes of the community. Under the older Acts of Parliament your powers and duties were limited to what were then termed the working classes.

At the end of the war in 1945 it was estimated that your current requirement for new houses was about 750. Up to the end of 1957

1061 new houses had been built by the combined efforts of your council and private enterprise, but the waiting-list at the year end was still about 700.

Waiting-lists need to be assessed with caution as occasional checks show some degree of inflation, but there are probably some other families which have not applied, and although many of the folk who wish to improve their way of living are included in our slum clearance programme there may be some who will have to be rehoused even if they are contented with their slum conditions.

Although it is not practicable to arrive at a precise figure for your present new housing needs I suggest that between 250 and 300 is a probable maximum range, bearing in mind that private enterprise has now resumed its valuable contribution to individual tastes, and that it might not be desirable for the Borough to become too top-heavy with municipally subsidised houses.

What seems most needed is more small flats and bungalows, so that the unused reserve of rooms in larger houses could be released for people who need them. The 1951 census showed that of the 599 houses occupied only by one person, 152 of them were 4-roomed houses and 135 had five rooms each. In many instances I would dare to say that the occupiers would rather be without all that unused space if only they could get into somewhere smaller and more manageable.

Kendal's problem is not now so much a shortage of houses, but an exercise in reshuffling what we have already. With an ageing population, and a consequent increase of sole survivors in a family, surely the answer is to be found in more flats or bungalows, sited near the central parts of the town. One of your local authority neighbours has done a survey of how many people actually occupy the rooms in their Council houses, and the result showed considerable scope for reshuffling. I think that you would find the same with yours. The 1951 census pointed the way.

New House Building.

Since the end of the 1939-45 war your Council have completed 796 houses, plus 40 prefabricated bungalows and 9 flats in the old isolation hospital. The Sandylands Estate on a very healthy rising site to the north-east of the town was completed in 1950 with 242 new houses. Since that date the Hall Garth Estate has been developed on a more lowlying area to the west of the town. It was almost complete by the end of 1957 towards its full quota of 560 houses.

Your Council resolved to suspend further house building after the completion of Hall Garth. Circumstances have changed since then,

and it seems likely that the Council will recommence activities with some more houses or flats for old people. How the continued demand from the hundreds on the waiting list, and the needs for slum clearance rehousing, will be met is still uncertain. Kendal's commercial expansion is limited by labour shortage, and labour is limited by housing, but that might not always be so.

Private enterprise building was seriously curtailed by the stringent controls during the post-war decade, and it is only now making a slow recovery. When people had the money they were not allowed to build. Now that free enterprise is restored the house seekers have not the money to buy them or are discouraged by high interest rates and no subsidies. No doubt it will all sort itself out in time, but a lot of people will never live long enough to see their dreams come true. 266 houses have been built by private enterprise since the war.

Tenants Selection.

Your Council adopts the method of selection of tenants for Corporation houses by consideration of application cards, and personal knowledge of the applicants and their needs. There is no system of points, nor is there anonymity. This results in a considerable amount of personal canvassing by the more persistent applicants.

Your Tenants Selection Committee has been most sympathetic and has rehoused certain persons upon medical grounds at my representation. The public health has incidentally been safeguarded by the removal of these cases to separate dwellings. All the same, it is desirable that the value of medical certificates should be critically reviewed from time to time, lest they develop into a meaningless routine. The test must be the results they produce. If the value of medical certificates is enough to secure some effective measure of priority for the afflicted, the general practitioners and I will remain happy to continue our efforts, but if our certificates are not materially helping earlier rehousing then we would do better to stop writing them. It is as simple as that, and no doubt the position will change from time to time. Factual results should be our guide.

Housing Management.

The Corporation own over 2,000 houses, which require increasing attention. Many visits were made by the Public Health Department during the year in connection with the public health aspects of housing management on the municipal estates. The rents of your houses range between 5/3d. and 18/3d., exclusive of rates. The rateable values vary between £9 and £29.

The examination of rentals and rates may not seem at first to have much to do with public health, but it does have considerable significance. It is not unknown for persons who have been rehoused from poor quarters into modern Council houses to have to pay their rent and rates from the portion of their income which rightly belongs to the purchase of food. Domestic economy can effect the general standard of the public health almost as much as environmental conditions, and some attempt must be made to maintain a balance between these conflicting factors.

Verminous Houses.

Public Health Act, 1936. Sections 83-85.

Bed bugs were found in no houses. The Department checked the accommodation and effects of successful applicants prior to their removal to Council houses. In all cases where bed bugs were suspected the furniture and effects were removed by the Health Department and treated with cyanide before delivery. None needed it in 1957.

175 visits were made in connection with this work. This entailed many visits outside normal working hours, and the staff required much tact in this work.

During the year I raised the point that staff shortage in the Health Department will allow these inspections to be made only when the Housing Department consider that bugs are likely, and not as a routine measure for such a meagre harvest in these enlightened days. We have too many other more important tasks to do than chasing bugs that are not there.

Nuisances and Notices.

Public Health Act, 1936. Sections 91-100.

During the year 600 inspections of dwelling-houses and 195 inspections of yards were made, and 129 visits were made to investigate complaints in houses. The following action resulted:—

Preliminary Notices served	...	126
Statutory Notices served	...	1

In no case was it necessary to obtain an Abatement Order from the Court.

Dangerous Buildings.

Public Health Act, 1936. Section 58.

The operation of these provisions lies with the Borough Engineer, as far as the formal procedures of the Act are applied, but the Health Department often has a co-incidental or separate interest in some of

these premises. Formal action taken during 1957 comprised no statutory notices served under the Act, and 10 informal notices sent.

During a slum clearance review in 1957 I drew your Council's attention to over one hundred dilapidated buildings and structures which seemed either to present physical dangers or to be a deplorable spectacle. Most of them were within half a mile of the Town Hall. Your Council promptly formed a special committee to deal with them, and the co-operation of all departments was enlisted to bring the necessary pressures to bear on the people responsible to do the right thing with their decrepit property. We shall have to keep up the pressure and turn on the heat next year.

Tents, Vans, Sheds and Moveable Dwellings.

Public Health Act, 1936. Sections 268-269.

10 visits were paid concerning tents, vans and sheds, and in every case it was moved within a few days.

There are no licensed camping sites within the Borough, and two individual licences are in force.

WATER SUPPLIES.

Water Act, 1945.

Kendal has an abundant water supply from both overground and underground sources, as well as a connection to the Manchester Corporation aqueduct. In years when the rainfall is average, or better, the overground supplies usually meet the need, but they are limited by the relatively small area of the gathering grounds. The underground supply is inexhaustible, but pumping is costly and limited again by the capacity of the plant. The Manchester supply is even more costly, and the amount which may be taken is restricted by a formal agreement.

The overground sources are upland surface gathering grounds, lying to the east of the Borough, with a run-off from rocks of the Kirkby Moor Flags in the Upper Ludlow Series of the Silurian System. The Catchment Area is about 400 acres in extent, feeding all three of the reservoirs.

The main reservoir is at Fisher Tarn, which has a capacity of 117,996,000 gallons. Upper Birds Park reservoir has a capacity of 3,000,000 gallons. Lower Birds Park reservoir has a capacity of 14,784,000 gallons. These three reservoirs therefore provide very generous storage capacity, amounting to about six months' supply. The annual consumption is 41 gallons per head per day, including all industrial works.

The underground source of water is at Mints Feet, which is a shallow well near the bank of the River Kent on the north of the town. This supply comes from the river and the alluvial deposits of the valley bottom, and is potentially inexhaustible. Since the removal of the river weir at Aikrigg End, the rest level of Mints Feet Well has fallen about two feet, and, when there has been a long spell of dry weather, the pumps have emptied the well faster than it refilled itself. This effect of the lowering of the local water-table could no doubt be met by deepening the well. This supply is hypochlorinated.

Your Council's consulting engineers have prepared a scheme for pumping super-chlorinated water from Mints Feet Well up to Birds Park reservoir, after which it would receive the normal further treatment. I welcome this proposal as increasing the safeguards to the public health. The Scheme received the approval of the Minister of Health during the year, and it is hoped that a start may be made during 1958. I feel that the day is not far distant when your undertaking will be amalgamated into a larger Water Board area.

Treatment of the overground supplies is very satisfactorily carried out by hypo-chlorination. Bacteriological examinations are carried out monthly and full chemical analyses are made annually, and the results are set out in Appendix "A" herewith.

Safeguarding of the purity of the upland supplies is further ensured by the regular and frequent inspection of the gathering ground and by particular attention to the health of the workmen and fishermen on the reservoir.

The distribution system is mainly by gravity, but there is a Booster at Beast Banks to improve the pressure in the Greenside area. There is a service reservoir fed from Fisher Tarn at Bolefoot, Oxenholme, with a capacity of 30,000 gallons.

There are only 41 houses in the Borough which do not obtain their water from the Corporation mains, 13 of these are connected to the Thirlmere aqueduct and the remainder are served by wells and surface water private installations.

I have no official knowledge of the quantity or quality of the private water supplies.

I am indebted to the water Engineer for furnishing the technical data in this section.

Provision of Baths and Sinks.

The 1951 Census showed that your Borough held 5,651 households, of whom 1,506 had no fixed bath. That means about 26%.

Only 6% were without either a kitchen sink of their own or the doubtful pleasure of sharing one.

SEWERAGE.

Water Carriage.

Public Health Act, 1936. Section 47.

Almost all the houses in Kendal are fitted with waterborne sanitation. There are 56 trough-closets; 16 privies and 4 pail-closets still lingering on.

Public Conveniences.

Public Health Act, 1936. Section 87.

Public conveniences fairly well serve the centre of the town. Proper supervision of conveniences is difficult and they have suffered much wanton damage by hooligans.

New conveniences were provided at the Market Hall to serve the Stricklandgate car park, and your Council were considering enlarging the premises on the New Road. The long-distance 'bus passengers are still left in much discomfort in Sandes Avenue.

Sewerage System.

Public Health Act, 1936. Section 14.

Most of the Borough is served by the public sewers, but about 150 houses remain dependent upon cesspools. Some of the sewers are overloaded and require enlargement. Certain ancient drains communicate with surface water channels and cause occasional pollution of the river by crude sewage. These are being remedied as they are discovered.

Sewage Disposal.

Public Health Act, 1936. Section 15.

Sewage disposal is carried out at Wattsfield in the south of the Borough. These works were opened in 1909, with extensions in 1919-20, and comprise coarse screens with detritus tanks, whence it is carried by rotating distributors to circular filter beds. It is then passed through humus tanks before being discharged into the River Kent. The effluent has been satisfactory in quality.

Sludge is pumped on to drying-beds on the adjacent land, and special treatment is given to the gasworks liquor. There are adequate storm-water tanks.

The average dry weather flow of crude sewage dealt with at the works is 1,050,000 gallons per day. The plant is under the control of the Borough Engineer and has at all times been operated efficiently and without nuisance — a high tribute to any sewage disposal works.

PUBLIC CLEANSING.

Refuse Collection.

Public Health Act, 1936. Section 72.

With very few exceptions in the remote parts of the Borough there is a weekly removal of refuse carried out under the supervision of the Chief Public Health Inspector. 1,182 houses have been added since 1945. Trade refuse is collected separately at an agreed scale of charges.

Refuse Disposal.

Public Health Act, 1936. Section 76.

Semi-control tipping on the central site at Castle Grove continued on land owned by Messrs. Somervell Brothers, which will make a sports field on completion. At the year end the final layers were being levelled off to form the terraces. Your Health Department has neither the staff nor the earth-moving machinery to complete the reinstatement works, so that will either be undertaken by another Department or put out to contract.

A great improvement in the technique of tipping was made during the year by the acquisition of a small bulldozer. The limitations in finishing off the Castle Grove tip prevented fully-controlled tipping being done, but there seems every hope that with the mechanical equipment and the more generous supply of covering material we shall eventually adopt a practice to conform with the Ministry's standards.

As Castle Grove is nearing completion, arrangements were made during the year for a new short-term tipping site along the length of the disused canal outside the Borough boundary, between Natland Road bridge and Crow Park. Tipping is expected to start there in February 1958, so at the year end preparatory works were in progress to make an access road, turning spaces and fences. Fully controlled tipping will be practised, and the shape of the canal bed will indeed enforce it. The project will help your neighbours in the Rural District to eliminate the nuisances of the abandoned canal. We reckon that this length of the canal will last until the spring of 1960, with an average progress of about two yards per day along the bed. Whether it would be economical, or permissible, to extend further south of Crow Park has not yet been explored; nor has the section within the Borough.

The use of the old canal bed is designed to give us a margin of time to acquire a good long-term site for refuse disposal. I do not favour even fully controlled refuse tipping inside the built up areas of the town if there are any other reasonable alternatives in the countryside around. Moreover, any sites left inside the Borough are only short-term ones, with a life of less than 10 years, and that means a most uneconomical expanse of preparatory site works and final reinstatement, besides having to keep up a constant battle to find the next hole in a corner to go to.

Another reserve site to add to the margin of time which may be needed after 1960 is Cinder Ovens Field. I do not like its position so near the Kendal Grammar School for some $2\frac{1}{2}$ years static tipping, and I have said so. Furthermore it seems that the cost of preparatory works and reinstatement will be extravagant. Your Council's appeal against refusal of planning permission to tip there was pending at the year end.

Whether Cinder Ovens will ever be needed, albeit at unrealistic cost for its short life, or whether some other less expensive short-term disposal sites can be found, cannot be forecast at the moment. We may be able to abandon such costly emergency schemes and settle down on some long-term site, where the preparatory costs can be spread over 20 or more years, and where we can put up some cover for our mechanical plant and our men to save trundling them back and forth each day. I would like to think so.

Your Council are meanwhile vigorously seeking such a long-term tip outside the Borough boundary, and favour a site at Skelsmergh. No one of course is keen to have a refuse tip in their neighbourhood, and so we face all the battles of compulsory land purchase, local objections, and planning refusals, battles which we cannot shirk. The refuse must be put somewhere, and it needs everyone's good faith to do it.

Salvage of Waste Material.

Salvage of waste materials was continued during the year. So long as suitable materials are put out for collection and can easily be sorted, it may be economical and a fire safeguard to continue their salvage and sale.

Canal Head Dépôt.

A series of derelict buildings at Canal Head are allocated for paper salvage, bin storage, vehicle garaging and staff toilets and messroom.

Most of them are in a deplorable state and your Council have prepared plans to replace them with a central depot to cover the needs of both the Streets and the Health Departments. It is hoped that the work will be commenced in either 1958 or 1959. It is vitally needed.

Street Cleansing.

Public Health Act, 1936. Section 77.

The main streets are maintained by the staff of the Borough Engineer. The open-air markets cause considerable work but the general appearance of the roads is good. Quite another picture is seen in many of the yards lying behind the main frontage, to which the annual reports of my predecessors for the past sixty years have drawn attention. Kendal is a notorious place for setting up unauthorised refuse dumps in odd holes and corners all over the centre of the town. Any plot of vacant ground seems fair game for dumping trade refuse, dirty mattresses, rags, old ironwork and such like. All our departments keep up a running battle with these strange bequests. I can see no remedy until Kendal takes its redevelopment opportunities more seriously.

FOOD AND DRUGS.

General Powers.

Food and Drugs Act, 1955.

Your Council bear most of the statutory responsibility for safeguarding the public from foodborne diseases. The main aim is directed towards securing proper and hygienic conditions for the manufacture, preparation and sale of food. The secondary aim is to trace and localise any outbreaks of disease which may occur in spite of preventive measures.

Precautions against Contamination.

The Food Hygiene Regulations, 1955.

Food hygiene is steadily improving throughout your area. Public opinion is well ahead of the law and most traders are aware of the fact. The good food trader does not need official instruction in basic cleanliness or the enforcement of legal minimum standards. He may welcome advice on technical problems, but his aim is how high he can get, not how low he can get away with.

We have now passed the stage of educational approach. A small minority of food traders have remained untouched by years of hygienic propaganda, unmoved by conscience and unwilling to believe that

the law need apply to them as they pursue their unsweet ways. They hoard masses of filthy junk in their food stores, cling on to ancient stocks of rotting food, tolerate disgusting staff toilets and even have the effrontery to appear before their customers in dirty and greasy overalls. I repeat that the bad traders are now only a very small minority, and they are being dealt with in no uncertain fashion whenever they are reported. During the year an outside firm was prosecuted for selling in Kendal a loaf of bread containing cigarette ends. A fine of £25 was imposed by the magistrates. Staff shortage during the year prevented much of the routine inspection being properly followed up.

Very few food traders or caterers have taken up my challenge for them to invite their customers to look behind the scenes. It is done with pride by the shipping companies on most of the sea-going liners, and I hope that we are not ashamed to do the same on land. It would have a magnificent advertisement value, and the public would be left to draw their own conclusions about the others. A clean kitchen and clean staff are far more important than fancy titivations in the dining-room. Every customer should feel confident that the food he eats is safe and has been safely prepared. He has a right to be so protected and your Council are the guardians of that right.

The responsibility for safe food does not rest entirely with the trader as the housewife must play her part as well. Quite a lot of strange things happen to food between the shop counter and the dinner plate, and the educational campaign has had to be carried into the home. Every link in the chain of infection must be remembered; that chain hangs as a symbol over every water-closet in the district. Personal hygiene is the keynote, whether it be fostered by posters or propaganda or taught to the children in simple nursery jingles. Foodborne diseases, mild dysenteries and attacks of diarrhoea and vomiting are not infrequent in our homes and among our visitors. I am confident that high standards will reduce these preventable diseases.

Ice-Cream Trade.

Food and Drugs Act, 1955. Section 16.

Ice-Cream (Heat Treatment, etc.) Regulations, 1947.

Manufacture by hot mix, cold mix, storage and sale	...	3
Manufacture by cold mix, storage and sale	...	3
Storage and sale only	...	73

During the year 27 visits of inspection were made to ice-cream

premises. On the whole the position is reasonably satisfactory. Three formal cautions were given to hot mix manufacturers and they achieved improvements.

Prepared Meats.

Food and Drugs Act, 1955. Section 16.

The number of premises on the register under Section 16 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1955, used for the preparation of sausages, potted meat, preserved meat, pressed meat and pickled foods, was 31 at the year end. No particular difficulties have been encountered in these trades.

Registration of Milk Distributors and Dairies which are not Dairy Farms.

Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1949- to date.

Total number of registered Distributors	...	...	...	36
„ „ Dairies	...	...	...	5

The retail distribution of loose milk by the obsolescent jug and hand-can still lingers on as an unsatisfactory feature from the point of view of public health.

During 1957 one registered dairyman was given notice to show cause why his registration should not be cancelled for alleged breaches of the law. He first gave an undertaking to carry out works to make the premises fit, but finally changed his mind and closed the dairy down, transferring his activities to a satisfactory farm dairy in the adjoining rural district.

Cleanliness of Milk.

Food and Drugs Act, 1955.

No samples were taken during the year.

Designated Milk Licences.

Milk (Special Designation) Regulations.

Your Borough Council is responsible for the granting of dealers' and supplementary annual licences for the sale of designated milks. At the year end 19 dealers' and three supplementary licences for tuberculin tested milk and two dealers' and 14 supplementary licences for pasteurised milk were in force.

Condemnation of Meat at the Abattoir.

Food and Drugs Act, 1938. Section 10.

The following is a summary of the carcasses inspected and condemned in whole or in part:—

	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number killed (if known)	2,773	1,113	130	15,860	4,388
Number inspected ..	2,773	1,113	130	15,860	4,388
<i>All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci:</i>					
Whole carcasses condemned	3	19	24	25	5
Carcase of which some part or organ was condemned	108	51	—	32	320
Percentage of number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis and cysticerci	4.8	6.2	18.6	0.35	7.4
<i>Tuberculosis only:</i>					
Whole carcasses condemned	Nil	1	1	Nil	1
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	55	40	7	Nil	91
Percentage of number inspected affected with tuberculosis ..	1.9	3.6	6.1	Nil	2.0
<i>Cysticerosis:</i>					
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	20	5	—	—	—
Carcasses submitted to treatment by refrigeration	20	5	—	—	—
Generalised and totally condemned	—	—	—	—	—

Licensed Slaughter-houses and Knackers' Yards.

Food and Drugs Act, 1955. Part IV.

There are no knackers' yards. The only slaughter-house is the Corporation's public abattoir at Sandylands which also serves various neighbouring areas. The local authorities concerned share the operating cost, and you also receive an Exchequer grant towards Inspection of meat in excess of the Borough's own local requirements. Almost the whole time of one public health inspector is spent on meat inspection, and the hours of slaughtering cause him to do much overtime as well. Unless the general staff shortage within the Health Department is soon solved it seems likely that a proportion of the meat will have to be left uninspected and the consumers will bear the risk.

During 1957 additional lairage and a new mess room for slaughtermen were completed to make a very welcome improvement to the abattoir. 23,413 animals were slaughtered during the year. All condemned meat is stained with an indelible dye and is salvaged for conversion into animal and poultry foods. No instances have been brought to notice of pets' food being purchased for human consumption. A warning is necessary in the handling of such foods; care must be taken to keep all utensils and preparation benches separate from human food, and careful washing of the hands after handling pets' food is advised to prevent contamination from infected meats.

Condemnation of Other Foodstuffs.

Food and Drugs Act, 1955.

Various other foodstuffs were condemned in shops and warehouses.

Method of Disposal of Condemned Food.

The Minister of Health requires me to describe the current methods for the disposal of condemned food. In this District it is by burial at Wattsfield.

GENERAL INSPECTIONS.

Establishment.

The establishment of the department was one Chief Public Health Inspector, two Additional Inspectors and one Clerk. The strength of the department was maintained during the year, except for increasing sickness absences, particularly in the last quarter of the year.

The Chief Inspector has, of necessity, considerable administrative duties in the running of his department, the preparation of material and attendance at your Committees, and his availability for outside duties was restricted. This is the usual position in most authorities.

The Second Inspector spends a lot of his time supervising the refuse service, particularly during the present phase of moving tip sites. Otherwise he is available for general outside duties. We hope to get him even more mobile on a motor scooter early in 1958.

The Third Inspector spends nearly all his time, and a lot of overtime, at the abattoir on meat inspection for all the local authorities who use the service.

The Clerk is allocated to spend half his time on Cemeteries administration, and the rest on the other duties of the Health's Department. He too has to put in much overtime.

The establishment has become quite inadequate for the proper carrying out of your Council's duties, the health of the staff is being seriously prejudiced, and reorganisation seem inevitable.

During 1957 I brought this position to the notice of a combined meeting of representatives of your Council's Health and Streets committees, with the recommendation that either there should be a transfer of functions of the refuse service, and perhaps cemeteries, from the Health Department to the Borough Surveyor's Department, or that the establishment of the Health Department should be raised by one additional junior public health inspector in the first instance.

The suggested transfer of functions would be a first step towards unifying the Council's labour staffs and vehicles in the proposed new Central Depot. The establishment increase would on the other hand offer flexibility in employment within the Health Department. Your Council chose to try to get an additional junior public health inspector, but unless they adopt a policy to make a house available with the appointment the chances of attracting any applicant at all seem dim.

One fact is certain: the proper functions of the Health Department are being brought towards a standstill by preoccupation with disposal of the garbage and disposal of the dead. It cannot go on so.

Offensive Trades.

Public Health Act, 1936. Section 107.

The carrying out of the following offensive trades in the Borough has not given rise to any undue nuisance.

Fellmonger	...	...	...	1
Carcase Boiler	...	...	...	2
Tallow Melter	...	...	...	1
Tripe Boiler	...	...	...	1
Gut Scraper	...	...	...	1
Rag and Bone Dealers	...	...	...	2

Factories.

Factories Act, 1937.

The duties and responsibilities of your Council are not being fully carried out for the staffing reasons to which I have already referred.

Two outworkers were notified to your Council by factory owners.

There are no recognised basement bakehouses in the Borough.

No certificates were issued approving the means of escape in case of fire in a factory.

Form 572 (revised) was sent directly to the Minister of Labour and National Service, giving details of the Borough Council's administration of the relevant sections of Parts I and VIII of the Factories Act, 1957, in accordance with Section 127 of that Act.

Inspections.

Premises.	Number of Premises.	Number of		
		Inspections.	Written Notices.	Occupiers prosecuted.
Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities ..	191	72	—	—
Factories not included in (1), in which Section 7 is enforced by Local Authority	—	—	—	—
Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding outworkers' premises)	—	—	—	—
Total	191	72	—	—

No defects were found.

Shops Act, 1950.

27 visits were made under the Shops Act for the supervision of sanitary accommodation, washing facilities and the maintenance of suitable temperatures.

Common Lodging Houses.

Public Health Act, 1936. Part IX.

Only one common lodging house at Waterside remains on the register; six visits were paid during the year.

Rent Acts.

The Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954, has caused a lot of extra work for our department. During the year 18 applications were made by tenants for certificates of disrepair. In 16 of these cases certificates were issued: in one case repairs were done before issue: in the remaining case the landlord's notice of rent increase was invalid because the cottage was already condemned in a clearance area. One undertaking was received during the year. Several cases were noticed when the necessary entries prescribed by the Housing and Rent Restriction Acts were not entered in rent books. All these were rectified upon the department's intimation to the agents or landlords.

Smoke Abatement.

Public Health Act, 1936. Sections 101-106.

17 visits were paid in connection with smoke abatement. Most defects were due to careless stoking.

Laboratory Services.

National Health Service Act, 1946. Section 17.

The Laboratory attached to Westmorland County Hospital in Kendal provided many of the necessary examinations of material obtained by the department. This laboratory has given extremely valuable service to the southern part of the County.

National Assistance Act, 1948.

Section 47 — Compulsory Removal.

During the year your Council had the sad duty of securing Court Orders for the compulsory removal to hospital of an elderly man and his wife who were both seriously ill and not fit to stay at home. The husband died soon afterwards, and his widow then stayed on voluntarily in hospital.

One other case has been under review for a couple of years, but sufficient help has been provided to avoid compulsory removal. The lady has been voluntarily to hospital on several occasions during that time, and we hope that she will continue to do so.

Such cases are extremely distressing to deal with and the course of compulsory removal is reserved to meet the emergencies of a last resort when all other methods of help have failed. Sometimes it is very hard to decide what is really in the best interests of the patient.

Pests Act, 1949.

During the year 933 premises were surveyed under the provisions of the Act, 103 premises were found to be infested by rats or mice and were treated by the department, 1,190 visits were made.

55 complaints of rats or mice were received during the year. A systematic survey was commenced during 1955. One section of the sewers were treated successfully, and tests on other lengths were satisfactory.

Pet Animals Act, 1951.

Three shops are licensed. No particular difficulties were encountered in supervision.

Byelaws.

Byelaws on public health matters are in force with regard to:—

- Public Slaughterhouses.
- Smoke Abatement.
- Building.
- Food Handling.

New Legislation.

- Rent Act, 1957, became operative 6th July, 1957.
- Rent Restriction Regulations, 1957, became operative 6th July, 1957.
- Housing Act, 1957, became operative 1st September, 1957.

APPENDIX “A”.
Laboratory Examination of Public Water Supplies.

Nature of Test.	Standards Max.	Fisher Tarn.	Birds Park.	Mints Feet.
Pr. coli-count 37° ..	3-10	0	17	0
Faecal coli-strep. ..	0		0	
Character	—	Clear	Clear	Clear
Reaction	—	6.7	6.8	6.7
Ammonical Nitrogen	.041	.01	.01	Nil
Albuminoid Nitrogen	.066	.04	.04	Nil
Total Solids ..	1000	61.4	95.4	119.2
Hardness {	Total ..	32	53	93
	Carbonate	—	—	—
	Non-Carb.	—	—	—
Chlorides	30	13	15	11.5
Nitrates	1.0	0	0	0
Nitrites	—	0	1.8	2.7
O.2 Absorbed ..	1.0	.88	.58	Nil
Heavy Metals ..	—	0	0	0
Rainfall 24 hours ..	—	.18"	.18"	.18"
Date Sampled ..	—	28/1/57	28/1/57	28/1/57
Laboratory	—	Liverpool	Liverpool	Liverpool

Chemical analyses expressed in parts per million.

